

TORREYA

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A Tribute to Mr. George Tracy Hastings

During the last twenty years Mr. Hastings has been a most effective editor of TORREYA. Anyone who has looked over the publications of TORREYA cannot leave them without a feeling that a great deal of work and energy went into the pages of this journal. Editing TORREYA was a pleasure and a labor of love that he thoroughly enjoyed.

Mr. Hastings' undergraduate work was carried on at Cornell University and for two years after he was a graduate assistant in botany at his Alma Mater. For some period of years he was a teacher at a Mission School in Santiago, Chile. One of his early publications was "Notes on the Flora of Central Chile" in Volume 6 of the *Plant World*. This was followed by a contribution, "Observations of the Flora of Chile," published in the *Bulletin* of the Torrey Botanical Club in 1905. After a year of teaching at Winona, N. J., he joined the staff of the Philadelphia Commercial Museum as an economic botanist and carried on graduate work at the University of Pennsylvania.

Mr. Hastings entered the DeWitt Clinton High School as a teacher in biology in 1910 and remained in this position until he entered war work with the Y. M. C. A. On his return from service he entered Evander Childs High School and carried on graduate work at Columbia University which honored him with an M.A. degree. With the opening of the new Theodore Roosevelt High School on Fordham Road he was made head of the department of biology and carried on in this position until his retirement in 1940. Mr. Hastings was a member of Sigma Psi. The pages of TORREYA give eloquent proof of the many contributions he made to the field of botany.

Mr. Hastings not only led trips for the Torrey Botanical Club but organized an extensive field course in biology for teachers in the New York area. These field trips helped materially in the edu-

cation of biology teachers. Many of the teachers who served under his guidance attest to his splendid leadership and breadth of knowledge in the field that he chose for his life work. Students who worked under his direction are loyal in their praise of the man who was strict but sympathetic when occasion demanded. He seldom if ever lost his pleasing personality regardless of how good an excuse he might have had for expressing his opinions rather forcibly.

For nearly thirty years he has been active in the field work of the Club, and interested in its scientific and material welfare. His love of plants is so well expressed by the field trip (announced elsewhere in this issue) for any member who will be in California this year. Excerpts from a letter to Dr. B. O. Dodge which was read at the first fall meeting further attest to the affection that he had for the Torrey Club. He regretted his inability to lead his scheduled field trip and attend the fall meeting. He mentioned the plants blooming in California, his week at the sea shore and the walking sticks made of Pacific kelps for sale in the curio shops. His closing was a hope that the coming year will be a very prosperous one for the Club.

We extend the best wishes of the Torrey Botanical Club to you, Mr. Hastings, and to Mrs. Hastings and may you enjoy to the fullest the joys of a well-earned rest.

WM. J. BONISTEEL

JOHN W. THOMSON

FELLOWSHIP: \$1,000 TO \$1,500 STIPEND.—Applications and reference statements must be received before March 15, 1941 to be considered by the Board authorized to make the 1941-1942 award of this first Sigma Delta Epsilon Fellowship celebrating the twentieth anniversary of the founding of the organization.

Women with the equivalent of a Ph.D. degree, conducting research in the mathematical, physical, or biological sciences, who need financial assistance and give evidence of high ability and promise are eligible. During the term of her appointment the appointee must devote her entire time to the approved research project, and not engage in other work for remuneration (except in instances where written approval of the Board shall first have been obtained). Application blanks may be secured from Dr. Nina E. Gray, University, Normal, Illinois. Announcement of the award will be made early in April.